## **ABSTRACT**

Methods of production of desired recombinant proteins, polypeptides and peptides are disclosed which utilize mammalian host cells engineered for low cost regulated growth in autonomous and protein/serum-free culture media. Preferred host cells express insulin or an insulin-like growth factor, and/or transferrin and are engineered so that addition of an inducer (e.g., ZnCl<sub>2</sub> + CdCl<sub>2</sub>) halts growth and simultaneously induces the expression of the desired recombinant protein, polypeptide peptide.